

E-1654CIP

a tab fixed to the free end of the blade for temporarily and removably hooking the free end of the blade to the first point, said tab extending in a plane perpendicular to the blade in at least two directions transverse to a lengthwise edge of the blade at the free end of the blade with no portion of the tab extending substantially beyond said plane that is perpendicular to the blade.

17. (Twice Amended) A measuring tape for measuring the distance between a first point and a second point comprising [consisting essentially of]

a housing having a blade outlet and a blade hub centrally located inside said housing,

a flexible elongated blade having one fixed end connected to said blade hub and coiled into a roll around the blade hub, and having a free end extending from the housing through the blade outlet,

[the blade having two sets of indicia imprinted thereon which correspond to units of measure,

the first set of indicia including numbers imprinted along a first lengthwise edge portion of the blade and positioned on the blade such that the numbers are arranged in upright position one after the other and increase in value when read from the free end of

E-1654CIP

the blade toward the fixed end of the blade,

the second set of indicia including numbers imprinted along a second lengthwise edge portion of the blade and positioned on the blade such that the numbers are arranged in upside-down position one after the other, relative to the first set of numbers, and increase in value when read from the free end of the blade toward the fixed end of the blade, and]

a removable tab attachable [fixed] to free end of the blade for temporarily and removably hooking the free end of the blade to the first point, and

means fo attaching the tab to the free end of the blade,

the tab when attached to the free end of the blade extending in a plane perpendicular to the blade in at least two directions transverse to a lengthwise edge of the blade at the free end of the blade with no portion of the tab extending substantially beyond said plane that is perpendicular to the blade

[wherein one of the sets of numbers is legible right-side-up whether the free end of the blade is positioned at the first point or the second point].

18. (Amended) The measuring tape recited in claim 17, [the tab extending in at least two directions transverse to the lengthwise edge of the blade at the

E-1654CIP

free end of the blade]

the blade having two sets of indicia imprinted thereon which correspond to units of measure,

the first set of indicia including numbers imprinted along a first lengthwise edge portion of the blade and positioned on the blade such that the numbers are arranged in upright position one after the other and increase in value when read from the free end of the blade toward the fixed end of the blade, and

the second set of indicia including numbers imprinted along a second lengthwise edge portion of the blade and positioned on the blade such that the numbers are arranged in upside-down position one after the other, relative to the first set of numbers, and increase in value when read from the free end of the blade toward the fixed end of the blade,

wherein one of the sets of numbers is legible right-side-up whether the free end of the blade is positioned at the first point or the second point.

22. (Twice Amended) A removable tab extension attachable to the free end of a blade of a measuring tape for temporarily and removably hooking the free end of a blade of a measuring tape to the point being measured from, the measuring tape comprising a housing having a blade outlet and a blade hub centrally located

E-1654CIP

inside said housing, a flexible elongated blade having one fixed end connected to said blade hub and coiled into a roll around said blade hub, and having a free end extending from said housing through said blade outlet, and a tab fixed to free end of the blade for temporarily and removably hooking the free end of the blade to the first point, the tab extension comprising

a connection portion having means for removably connecting the tab extension to the tab fixed to the free end of the blade of the measuring tape, and

a hooking device portion extending in a plane perpendicular to the blade in at least two directions transverse to a lengthwise edge of the blade of the measuring tape [in a plane perpendicular to the blade of the measuring tape] at the free end of the blade when the tab extension is attached [connected] to the tab of the measuring tape with no portion of the tab and tab extension extending substantially beyond the plane that is perpendicular to the blade when the tab extension is attached to the tab of the measuring tape.

REMARKS

Applicant's proposed amended claim 1 recites that the tab that is fixed to the free end of the blade of the measuring tape being claimed extends "in a plane